Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated May 4, 2005. Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-21 remained pending in the application. All claims stand rejected based on Melo et al. (US 6,431,772), either alone, or in combination with Minari (US 6,809,831) and/or Olson et al. (US 2002/0016921). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Melo et al. (US 6,431,772).

Melo et al. discloses a broadcast printing system wherein a printer driver is **_pre-configured_** to print to a plurality of designated printers (column 3, lines 15-16). According to Melo et al., "a user may issue a request (e.g., by clicking on an icon or button with a pointer device in a graphical user interface) to have a document printed on a printer" (column 2, lines 56-59). Melo et al. further indicates that such a request "initiates the printer driver to create a print job to be transmitted to one or more of the printers" (column 2, lines 60-61). The print job may be transmitted to such printers "in response to a single print request" (column 2, lines 62-65).

Melo et al. does not disclose or suggest user-selection of printers via a user interface, does not disclose or suggest transmitting plural print jobs with a single request, and does not disclose or suggest providing for user-selection of different attributes for the plural print jobs. Melo et al. provides only for transmission of a single print job to pre-determined printers upon making a print request.

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As amended, claim 1 recites a computer-implemented printing system comprising: a set of printers configured to print user-selected print jobs; a communications link; and a processor linked via the communications link to the set of printers, the processor having a user interface configured to accommodate user-selection of a sub-set of printers of the set of printers, the processor further configured to communicate plural print jobs to the sub-set of printers upon a single command.

As noted generally above, Melo et al. does not disclose or suggest "a user interface configured to accommodate *user-selection of a sub-set of printers* of the set of printers." The printers employed by Melo et al. are "pre-selected". No user selection is indicated. Furthermore, Melo et al. does not disclose printing "*plural print jobs.*" Only a single print job (albeit printed to plural printers) is considered. For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1, and thus are distinguishable from Melo et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Amended claim 7 recites a computer-implemented printing system for printing to multiple print jobs via a single print command, comprising: plural printers, each printer configured to print user-selected print jobs; a communications link; and a computer linked to the printers via the communications link, the computer having a user interface configured to accommodate user selection of a plurality of print jobs corresponding to a plurality of respective printers, wherein the computer is further configured to receive individually-selectable attributes of each print job and to communicate the plurality of print jobs to the respective printers without the user separately ordering each individual print job.

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As noted generally above, Melo et al. does not disclose or suggest user selection of a plurality of print jobs. Melo et al. considers only a single print job, which is transmitted to pre-determined printers for printing. Correspondingly, Melo et al. does not disclose or suggest a computer "configured to receive *individually-selectable attributes of each print job* and to communicate the plurality of print jobs to the respective printers without the user separately ordering each individual print job." The Examiner recognizes this in the present Office action, wherein the Examiner indicates that "Melo et al. fail to teach a system, wherein the user interface is configured to allow a user to select attributes for each print job" (May 4, 2005 Office action, page 4, paragraph 12). In fact, since only a single print job is considered, it would not even be possible to individually select attributes for items printed on the pre-determined printers. Correspondingly, since only a single print job is considered, there would be no reason to consider selecting attributes individually plural print jobs.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn. Claim 11 depends from claim 7, and thus is distinguishable from Melo et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 7. Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 12-14 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Melo et al. (US 6,431,772) in view of Minari (US 6,809,831). Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2, 9, 12-14 and 19-20 are addressed below.

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As indicated above, Melo et al. discloses a broadcast printing system wherein a printer driver is pre-configured to transmit a single print job to a plurality of designated printers for printing in response to a single print request. However, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the present Office action, "Melo et al. fail to teach a system, wherein the user interface is configured to allow a user to select attributes for each print job" (May 4, 2005 Office action, page 4, paragraph 12). The Examiner thus refers to Minari.

Minari discloses a print control system which employs a set screen whereby "the user can set the print job attribute of the print job object (column 3, lines 37-39). Minari does not contemplate plural print job attributes, and does not contemplate plural print jobs. Correspondingly, Minari fails to disclose or suggest plural print jobs, each having individually-selectable print job attributes. Minari also fails to disclose or suggest selecting print job attributes of plural print jobs via a common user interface screen, and fails to disclose or suggest printing of plural print jobs with a single command.

Accordingly, neither Melo et al. nor Minari discloses printing plural print jobs with a single command. Furthermore, neither Melo et al. nor Minari discloses individually-selectable print job attributes for each of plural print jobs that may be printed by a single print command. When combined, the resulting system would do nothing more than allow selection of a single print job attribute of a single print job, and printing of such single print job to a static set of designated printers.

Amended claim 13 recites a computer-implemented method of printing to multiple print jobs from a single computer in a single action, the method comprising: receiving user input defining plural print jobs, each print job having different user-

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selected print job attributes; receiving a single print directive to print the print jobs on respective network devices, wherein at least one of the network devices is a printer; and upon receiving the single print directive, directing identified network devices to print respective print jobs according to the corresponding user-selected attributes. Neither Melo et al. nor Minari discloses or suggests selecting different attributes for each of plural print jobs. In fact, as noted above, neither reference even considers printing of plural print jobs. For at least these reasons, the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Amended claim 19 recites a medium readable by a computer, having embodied therein instructions executable by the computer to perform the steps of: receiving user input defining plural print jobs, each print job having individually-selected print job attributes; receiving a single print directive to print the print jobs on respective network devices, wherein at least one of the network devices is a printer; and upon receiving the single print directive, directing identified network devices to print respective print jobs according to the corresponding individually-selected print job attributes. As noted, neither Melo et al. nor Minari, nor the proposed combination thereof, discloses plural print jobs, each print job having individually-selected print job attributes, as recited in claim 19. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

As amended, claim 2 recites "user interface is configured to allow a user to select different attributes for each print job of the plural print jobs communicated to the sub-set of printers." Neither Melo et al. nor Minari discloses or suggests selecting different attributes for each of plural print jobs. In fact, as noted above, neither reference even considers printing of plural print jobs. For at least the

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foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claim 9 recites "individually-selectable attributes of the plurality of print jobs are stored as a print distribution list for subsequent use." Claim 14 recites "storing the user-selected print job attributes of the plural print jobs as a print distribution list for subsequent use." Claim 20 recites "instructions for storing the user-selected print job attributes of the plural print jobs as a print distribution list for subsequent use." The Examiner asserts that Minari discloses a processor configured to store plural print jobs as a distribution list for subsequent use. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Minari discloses nothing more than a transient print job accumulator that temporarily stores the print job prior to printing. There is no discussion of a distribution list with attributes for use in subsequent print operations. The rejection of claims 9, 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) thus should be withdrawn.

Claim 12 recites "the user interface includes a pull-down menu for user-selection of individually-selectable attributes of each print job." As noted, the cited references fail to show plural print jobs having individually-selectable attributes. For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Melo et al. (US 6,431,772) in view of Minari (US 6,809,831) and Olson et al. (US 2002/0016921).

Claims 15 recites defining print jobs by selection of a print distribution list. Claims 16-18 and 21 variously recite reaccessing a stored distribution list, and printing according to print job attributes on the print distribution list. Like Melo et al.,

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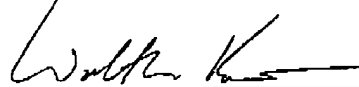   KH Docket No. HPCB 311

Olson et al. discloses only distribution of a single print job to a plurality of users. There is no disclosure of printing upon a single print directive in accordance with user-selected print job attributes on a distribution list. The rejections of claims 15-18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) thus should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.
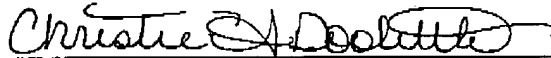
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner S. Singh, Group Art Unit 2626, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on August 3, 2005.

Christie A. Doolittle

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